

In touch with EU



News from the Association

Dissolution of the EIA

The decision to dissolve the Association is to be formally approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to be held on the afternoon of **Monday, 5 March**, at Europe House, London. The meeting will start at 14.00. Only those attending will be able to vote on the motion to dissolve the Association.

Agenda

- 1 - Welcome and introduction
 - 2 - 2011 accounts
 - 3 - Dissolution of the Association
- a) Requirement under the EIA Constitution, Article 7:

“The Association may be dissolved by a resolution passed by two thirds of the members present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for the purpose of which 21 days notice shall have been given to members. Such resolution shall give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Association, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association but shall be given to such other Association or Associations having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Association.”

- b) Summary of the Association’s current position (membership, finances, activities etc)
 - c) Comments
 - d) Motion to dissolve the Association
 - e) Vote
- 4 - Related issues
- a) Committee
 - b) Disposal of assets and storage of documents
 - c) Coordinator’s contract
 - d) PO Box
 - e) Final accounts
 - f) Bank
 - g) Eurotalk
 - h) Website
- 5 - A successor to the EIA?
6 - Any other business

If you wish to attend the EGM, or have views on dissolution and/or a successor organisation, please mail me.

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This newsletter can be printed, but the embedded URLs will be lost ...

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It's official:

EU documents , publications and sources

Old statistics

Marking the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, the 147-page Eurostat publication 'Active ageing and solidarity between generations: A statistical portrait of the European Union 2012' offers statistics on a range of topics, including demography, health-care, pensions, volunteering, and adult learning.
See: [Publication page](#)

'A partnership between Europe and Farmers'

The European Commission has launched the CAP@50 communication campaign, marking the 50th anniversary of the Common Agricultural Policy, under the slogan 'A partnership between Europe and Farmers'. The CAP is the only EU policy where there is a common EU framework and the majority of public spending in all Member States is from the EU budget, rather than from national or regional budgets.

See: [CAP@50 website](#)

Consultation periods

From 1 January, the standard consultation period for citizens, businesses and NGOs to comment on Commission plans for new policies and legislation is extended from eight to 12 weeks.

See: [Press Release IP/12/1](#)

Danish design

On 1 January, the rotating Presidency of the Council passed from Poland to Denmark. The Presidency website was described by Denmark's Minister for European Affairs as being 'light' and having a 'Danish feel to it'. The logo of the Danish Presidency is said to be 'a dynamic visual story about Denmark's EU Presidency at the beginning of 2012. The taking over of the Presidency is illustrated through the

double symbolism between 1 and 2, which shows that Denmark takes on the Presidency in 2012 and signals the Presidency's duration of half a year.

See: [Presidency website](#)

'Parlemeter'

'Parlemeter' is a Eurobarometer-style opinion survey conducted for the European Parliament. Parlemeter 76.3 looks at perceptions of the EP, and at policies and values that interviewees wish to see promoted and defended.

See: [Parlemeter page](#)

Crime statistics

The Communication 'Measuring Crime in the EU: Statistics Action Plan 2011- 2015' (COM(2011) 713) looks at progress made in measuring crime and criminal justice over the last five years and sets out the main actions for the next five years. Meanwhile, 'Crime and Criminal Justice, 2006-2009' is the title of Statistics in Focus 6/2012. Topics covered include: 'crimes recorded by the police (total crime, homicide, violent crime, robbery, domestic burglary, motor vehicle theft and drug trafficking), the prison population and the number of police officers.'

See: [Communication text](#)
[Statistics in Focus 6/2012](#)

European Council

In the 78-page publication 'The European Council in 2011', President Herman Van Rompuy 'looks back at the institution's activities in 2011 and provides his personal account of the main decisions taken by the EU's Heads of State or Government during the past year.' The publication includes the texts of all 2011 European Council conclusions and statements.

See: [Publication text](#)

Focus on ...

Legislative Observatory

The European Parliament's [Legislative Observatory](#) website has had a serious makeover. Described as 'the database for monitoring the EU decision-making process', it is an essential tool for tracking the progress of proposed legislation (similar to the Commission's PreLex service).

The latest incarnation of the site offers a clear interface, with just a single search option and some explanatory material.

The [Search](#) page should display both a dialogue box and a list of some 20 headings which can be used to refine a search (if the list isn't shown, click the 'OK' button next to the search box to display it).

It is not necessary to enter a search term in order to view items. By selecting a heading from the 'refine' list and choosing a subheading, it is possible to browse entries according to the criteria selected. For example, clicking 'Committee' allows you to see what procedure files are associated with a particular EP Committee.

Helpfully, the menu shows the number of files associated with each element of a search. It is therefore very easy to see, for instance, that there are 171 items for the Budgetary Control Committee, of which 77 are dated 2011, and of which just four concern the subject 'Area of freedom, security and justice' (i.e. anti-fraud).

In addition to the new search functions, the revamped site offers a calendar of plenary sessions and a much clearer layout of procedure files. The 'My Observatory' option enables users to personalise the site, allowing them to save searches and receive news of relevant developments.

The changes made so far have certainly improved the site, and with further features to be introduced over the coming months, it's worth keeping an eye on developments.

The Legislative Observatory has long been known as OEIL, after its French name; however, this latest manifestation makes no mention of OEIL, in either the English or French versions, so perhaps the name has been dropped.

The screenshot shows the Legislative Observatory website interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the European Parliament logo and the text 'Legislative Observatory EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'. Below the header is a navigation menu with 'Home', 'Search', 'My Observatory', and 'Find out more'. A search box is prominently displayed with a search button and a 'Clear' button. Below the search box, it indicates '11161 results found' and provides options for 'Permanent link' and 'Other formats'. A 'Refine your search' sidebar is visible on the left, listing various criteria like 'Parliamentary term', 'Year', 'Procedure type', etc. The main content area displays a list of search results, including entries like '2011/0902(COD) EU Civil Service Tribunal: temporary judges' and '2011/0901(COD) Court of Justice: statute (amend.)'. The interface is clean and modern, with a blue and white color scheme.

Snippets:

News and views from non-EU sources

EurActiv

From: [Commission fleshes out working of citizens' initiative](#)

The European Commission unveiled a new website yesterday (26 January) for the European Citizens' Initiative and detailed the procedure for their acceptance.

While there are high hopes that the petitions will help address the European Union's 'democratic deficit', not all member states have implemented the legislation and some fear the procedure will be too bureaucratic to live up to its ambitions.

The ECI, made possible by the Lisbon Treaty, allows citizens from at least seven member states to suggest legislation to the Commission should they receive a minimum 1 million signatures in support.

European Policy Centre

From: [The European External Action Service at work - How to improve EU foreign policy](#)

The problems that the European External Action Service (EEAS) has encountered during its first year have obscured its potential to improve the EU's foreign and security policy. The new Service has huge potential to contribute to building a new strategic culture, to improve coordination among the EU institutions and member states, and to design holistic policies to respond to longstanding challenges to EU foreign policy. This EPC Issue Paper [...] takes an innovative approach by looking at the difference the EEAS can make in a number of cross-cutting external policy

fields: crisis management and peace-building, human rights, non-proliferation, the fight against terrorism, energy and international mobility.

Notre Europe

From: [European treaties and national democracies](#)

As is the case with the tensions between the EU and Hungary, the drafting of the "Treaty" regarding the Economic and Monetary Union is once more raising the "European democracy" debate: this time the issue is not primarily the EU's functioning and "democratic deficit", but the way in which the EU may influence the autonomy of national democracies, in conditions that are now more than ever in need of clarification.

European Voice

From: [Reding seeks to revamp data privacy rules](#)

[Commissioner] Reding is proposing a "right to be forgotten" as part of the reform. This would allow people to delete their data if there were not legitimate reasons for retaining it. People would have to give explicit consent for their data to be processed.

The proposals also aim to reduce costs for businesses by creating a single set of laws in all 27 member states, avoiding the need for complying with different rules in different countries. Reding said this would save companies around €2.3 billion a year.